

## Gov. Wolf tours Coatesville revitalization projects supported by state investment

By Ginger Dunbar

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Coatesville residents James Thomas and Courtney Lindsay show their surprise as they meet Pennsylvania Gov. Wolf during his visit to Coatesville Friday. PETE BANNAN – DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

COATESVILLE >> Gov. Tom Wolf visited Coatesville on Friday to tour the revitalization projects, including the Coatesville Gateway Redevelopment Project and the new Coatesville Train Station project.

Wolf said that progress breeds more progress and he is excited to see what happens. The projects were funded through a combination of sources including the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and federal and private sources.

“When a community gets revitalized, not only does it

improve the quality of life for the people who live and work here, but it attracts more development that will spur the local economy,” Wolf said. “I’m excited to see how Coatesville will continue to transform itself for years to come.”

Wolf began his visit by stopping at the Fuel City Café, a new coffee shop in the city that often allows the Coatesville Police Department to host “coffee with a cop” events. From there the walking tour stopped at North Third Avenue and Fleetwood Street, where city officials showed Wolf where the new train station, currently in design review, will be located. The project is intended to include a walkable area and involves a mix of residential, commercial and office space.

Wolf’s office noted that PennDOT will support the project with \$20 million in funding to the Coatesville Station project in coordination with Coatesville Redevelopment Authority, which is leading the project.

“Eyes are on Coatesville,” Wolf said to the crowd that joined him on his walking tour of the city with 13,000 residents.

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Daily Local News, September 9, 2017

page 2



Developer James DePetris, State Rep. Harry Lewis and Coatesville city manager Michael Trio survey the interior of the Chester Valley National Bank, with Gov. Tom Wolf. The bank is part of the Coatesville revitalization and will become a restaurant. PETE BANNAN – DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

While Wolf, a Democrat, was joined by locally elected officials of his party, he was also joined by Rep. Harry Lewis Jr., R-74, of Caln, who welcomed Wolf and thanked him for his help to move the projects forward.

Sonia Huntzinger, Economic Development Administrator, 2nd Century Alliance, said the city is growing.

“The state has been incredibly supportive of our revitalization efforts in Coatesville and we were proud to be able to show him the burgeoning results of that support,” Huntzinger said.

The walking tour ended at the National Bank of Chester Valley at the intersection of Lincoln Highway and South First Avenue, which is the Coatesville Gateway Redevelopment Project. The bank is poised to become an Italian Restaurant, one of the projects by developers who have plans for a second restaurant in that area and plans to build office

buildings. Developer Jack Corcoran and owner James DePetris said some of the adjacent buildings will be demolished next week and they will begin construction shortly after that. They anticipate that the buildings will be finished in fall 2018.

The Coatesville Gateway Redevelopment Project plans include the construction of 20,000 square feet of new neighborhood retail, secure residential parking, and office spaces. Wolf’s office noted that DCED provided nearly \$6.5 million in funding through grants and loans for the \$21 million project, with an additional \$3 million provided by the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

After his visit to Coatesville, Gov. Wolf joined officials in Caln Township for the unveiling of the National Register of Historic Places plaque at Carver Court.

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